Age Homes/Multi-Service Centres for older persons.

4. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes relating to aged.

5. General grant-in-aid scheme for programmes relating to social defence services.

6. Scheme for prohibition and drug abuse prevention.

7. Sishu-Grah Scheme.

8. Promotion of in-country adoption.

ST Status to 'Argon Muslim' of Ladakh

872. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether eight tribes of Ladakh have been granted S.T. status in 1989 covering 95 per cent of nearly 2 lakh population;

(b) whether Government are aware that a microscopic minority called Argon Muslim has not been granted S.T. status till date, even though the claim for ST status by the said community was supported by others, including the Jammu & Kashmir Government; and

(c) if so, the present status and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies in Welfare Ministry

873. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total backlog of reserved vacancies in different cadres/posts in his Ministry;

(b) the total number of posts filled up during the last three years;

(c) whether the established criteria to clear the backlog was followed during this period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The total backlog of reserved vacancies in different cadres/posts is Five (5) as on date.

(b) The total no. of posts filled up during 1995—98 is Fifty (50) including SC-11, ST-3, OBC-9.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The filling up of vacancies including reserved vacancies & backlog is done by this Ministry on receiving suitable nominations from Department of Personnal and Training out of the candidates qualifying different exams conducted by UPSC/SSC. All relevant Government instructions are followed while intimating the backlog vacancies & making appointments against backlog.

NGO Working for the Welfare of STs

874. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, State-wise; and

(b) the names and details of such NGOs with their areas of activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A statement is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No. 24]